

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims below replaces all prior versions of the claims in this application.

Please first amend the claims section as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A phone case for a phone body having when in use a face with a microphone near one end of the phone body and a speaker near another end of the phone body, said case comprising a pocket having a bottom wall, opposing side walls, and a mouth end wall connected to said bottom and side walls beyond the microphone end of the phone body when nested in said pocket;

wherein said sidewalls extend along corresponding sides of the phone body from beyond the microphone end thereof to beyond the speaker end thereof;

wherein said side and end walls extend away from said bottom wall to form a pocket opening with a rim extending around the mouth such that the mouth is hidden from view and words spoken in a normal voice by a user of the phone body are received by the microphone while being muffled and blocked beyond the case sufficiently to be substantially unintelligible to persons in the vicinity of the user;

~~and~~ wherein portions of said rim on opposite sides of said pocket opening are adapted to provide a curved shape conforming generally to the contour of a human face from an ear to a mouth[.];

and wherein a portion of said rim along each of said sidewalls comprises a projecting lip of flexible material that provides a smooth surface for comfortably contacting the user's face and a substantial sound seal with the user's face.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Amended) A phone case according to claim 1, wherein said rim portions are made of a flexible, sound absorbing material, and are sufficiently deformable to conform substantially to said face contour and form a substantial sound seal when pressed against a human face.

4. (Original) A phone case according to claim 1 further comprising an ear end wall connected to said bottom and side walls beyond the speaker end of the phone body when nested in said pocket, said ear end wall extending from said bottom wall to beyond the phone face to form an ear portion of said rim that is adapted to be placed behind an ear lobe to reduce external noise that would otherwise interfere with the phone user's hearing of words emitted by the phone's speaker, and wherein said rim extends substantially continuously around the perimeter of said pocket opening.

5. (Original) A phone case according to claim 1 further comprising means for retaining the phone body in said pocket with its microphone end adjacent said mouth end wall;

6. (Original) A phone case according to claim 5, wherein said retaining means is a strap connected at opposite ends to said bottom wall or to said sidewalls and arranged to pass over and engage an intermediate portion of said phone face to hold said phone body in a secure position against an interior surface of said bottom wall, and wherein said strap is made of an elastic material.

7. (Original) A phone case according to claim 5, wherein said retaining means is a strap connected at opposite ends to said bottom wall or to said sidewalls and arranged to pass over and engage an intermediate portion of said phone face to hold said phone body in a secure position against an interior surface of said bottom wall, and wherein said strap comprises a first segment arranged to overlap and detachably engage a second segment, and wherein said overlapped segments are detachably engaged by fastening elements.

8. (Original) A phone case according to claim 1 for carrying a cellular phone body, wherein an upper portion of the phone case is adapted to be folded over a lower portion thereof to close the pocket opening, and wherein the case further comprises connecting means for detachably connecting said upper portion to said lower portion to keep said pocket closed.

9. (Original) A phone case according to claim 8, wherein each of said sidewalls has accordion-like pleats to facilitate the folding of said upper portion over said lower portion to close the pocket opening.

10. (Original) A phone case according to claim 8, wherein a portion of said rim along each of said sidewalls comprises an inwardly projecting lip to facilitate the folding of said upper portion over said lower portion to close the pocket opening.

11. (Original) A phone case according to claim 8, wherein said connecting means comprises a flap connected to the bottom wall and means for detachably fastening said flap to an exterior surface of the case to keep the opening closed.

12. (Original) A phone case according to claim 11, wherein said fastening means comprises a mechanical fastener arranged to detachable connect said flap to an exterior surface of said case.

13. (Original) A phone case according to claim 12, wherein said mechanical fastener comprises a male snap element and a female snap element, one of which is on an interior surface of said flap and the other on said exterior case surface.

14. (Original) A phone case according to claim 12, wherein said mechanical fastener comprises a hook fastening element and a loop fastening element, one of which is on an interior surface of said flap and the other on said exterior case surface.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) A phone case according to claim 5, wherein said retaining means is an open mesh net attached to the bottom wall or sidewalls to form an auxiliary interior pocket for receiving at least part of the phone body through an entrance opening .

17. (Original) A phone case according to claim 16, wherein said entrance opening comprises an elastic band arranged to pass over and engage an intermediate portion of the phone face to hold the phone body in a secure position against an interior surface of said bottom wall.

18. (Original) A phone case according to claim 16, wherein said entrance opening faces away from said mouth end wall and said pocket is arranged to receive and hold a base part of the phone body.

19. (Original) A phone case according to claim 18, wherein the phone face includes a keypad and said entrance opening comprises an elastic band for gripping the phone face above its keypad.

20. (Original) A phone case according to claim 1, wherein said side and end walls are made of a sound absorbing material to facilitate the muffling and blocking of the user's words beyond the case.

21. (Original) A phone case according to claim 1 for a receiver phone body of a corded phone, wherein the case further comprises an aperture in a wall of the case through which a cord may pass to connect the receiver body to a base of the corded phone.

22. (Currently Amended) A phone case according to claim 24 ~~1~~, wherein said case walls are made of a flexible material, wherein the mouth end wall ~~and the ear end wall each comprise~~ comprises a fold line, and wherein the bottom wall comprises at

least one fold line such that the case is collapsible along said fold lines from an open condition for receiving a phone body to a collapsed condition in which said opposing sidewalls may be brought into abutment upon removal of the phone body.

23. (Original) A phone case according to claim 22, wherein said bottom wall comprises at least three fold lines for forming at least one pleat when said case is in its collapsed condition.

24. (Currently Amended) A phone case for a phone body having when in use a face with a microphone near one end of the phone body and a speaker near another end of the phone body, said case comprising a pocket having a bottom wall, opposing sidewalls, a mouth end portion connected to said bottom and side walls beyond the microphone end of the phone body when nested in said pocket, and an ear end portion connected to said bottom and side walls beyond the speaker end of the phone body when nested in said pocket;

wherein said sidewalls extend along corresponding sides of the phone body from beyond the microphone end thereof to beyond the speaker end thereof;

wherein said sidewalls and said mouth end portion extend away from said bottom wall to form a pocket opening with a rim extending around the mouth such that the mouth is hidden from view and words spoken in a normal voice by a user of the phone body are received by the microphone while being muffled and blocked beyond the case sufficiently to be substantially unintelligible to persons in the vicinity of the user;

wherein said case is made of a flexible material, and said mouth end portion and said ear end portion each comprise a fold line;

and wherein the bottom wall comprises at least one fold line, said wall and end portion fold lines being arranged to cooperate such that the case is collapsible along said fold lines from an open condition for receiving the phone body to a collapsed condition in which said opposing sidewalls may be brought into abutment upon removal of the phone body.

25. (Original) A phone case according to claim 24, wherein said bottom wall comprises at least three fold lines for forming at least one pleat when said case is in its collapsed condition.

26. (Original) A phone case according to claim 24, wherein said ear end portion extends from said bottom wall to beyond the phone face to form an ear portion of said rim that is adapted to be placed behind an ear lobe to reduce external noise that would otherwise interfere with the phone user's hearing of words emitted by the phone's speaker.

27. (Previously Presented) A phone case according to claim 24, wherein a portion of said rim along each of said sidewalls comprises a projecting lip of flexible material that provides a smooth surface for comfortably contacting the user's face and a substantial sound seal with the user's face.

28. (Currently Amended) A phone case according to claim ~~[[1]]~~ 24, wherein said rim portions have a curved contour conforming generally to the contour of a human face from an ear to a mouth.

29. (Cancelled)

30. (New) A phone case for a phone body having when in use a face with a microphone near one end of the phone body and a speaker near another end of the phone body, said case comprising a pocket having a bottom wall, opposing side walls, a mouth end wall connected to said bottom and side walls beyond the microphone end of the phone body when nested in said pocket, and an ear end wall connected to said bottom and side walls beyond the speaker end of the phone body when nested in said pocket;

wherein said sidewalls extend along corresponding sides of the phone body from beyond the microphone end thereof to beyond the speaker end thereof;

wherein said side and end walls extend away from said bottom wall to form a pocket opening with a rim extending around the mouth such that the mouth is hidden from view and words spoken in a normal voice by a user of the phone body are received by the microphone while being muffled and blocked beyond the case sufficiently to be substantially unintelligible to persons in the vicinity of the user;

wherein portions of said rim on opposite sides of said pocket opening are adapted to provide a curved shape conforming generally to the contour of a human face from an ear to a mouth;

and wherein the mouth end wall and the ear end wall each comprise a fold line, and wherein the bottom wall comprises at least one fold line such that the case is collapsible along said fold lines from an open condition for receiving a phone body to a collapsed condition in which said opposing sidewalls may be brought into abutment upon removal of the phone body.

31. (New) A phone case according to claim 30, wherein said bottom wall comprises at least three fold lines for forming at least one pleat when said case is in its collapsed condition.

32. (New) A phone case according to claim 30, wherein said rim portions have a curved contour conforming generally to the contour of a human face from an ear to a mouth.